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Celebrity Pg 18

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Battle at home rages on

After 7 years, 93 soldiers lives and \$7B, Canadians still split on Afghan war

LAURA EGERTSON
for Metro Canada



As Canada approaches the tragic milestone of 100 soldiers killed in Afghanistan, voices across the country debate the rising cost, both human and economic, of a conflict that rivals the Second World War in length.

In October 2001, Canada joined the U.S.-led War on Terrorism by launching Operation Apollo in response to the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City. To date, more than 20,000 Canadian Forces personnel have served in Afghanistan's shifting sands, with some soldiers on their second or third tours of duty.

Canada has lost 93 soldiers, diplomat Glyn Berry, and aid workers Shirley Case and Jacqueline Kirk. Close to 300 soldiers have been wounded in action.

"From an army as small as Canada's ... that's a lot of people," says Martin Shadwick, a defence analyst at Toronto's York University.

As of March 31, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Canada has spent more than \$7 billion on the war, including salaries, food and equipment for troops. Those fig-



Cpl. Kris Evong from Porters Lake, N.S., is hugged by his wife Kelly as he kisses his son Gage, 2, preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in January 2007. Evong was one of approximately 120 soldiers who shipped out as part of Joint Task Force Afghanistan Rotation 3.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO CANADA FILE PHOTO
The woman behind the wheel of a school bus that crashed into a dump truck, killing nine-year-old Katheleen Occena and injuring several others was dealt a \$2,300 fine.

Louise Rogers pleaded guilty to careless driving and was sentenced to the maximum \$2,000 fine, a \$300 victim fine surcharge, a 90-day driving prohibition and a year of probation at provincial court in Calgary yesterday.

"The law here in Canada is a joke," the victim's mother Genevieve Occena told reporters outside court. "It is unfair. I lost a daughter and all she got was a \$2,000 fine and 90 days driving prohibition."

The impact of the crash sheered the right side off the bus and injured several students heading to Mountain View Academy Oct. 18, 2007.

NEIL MACKINNON/
FOR METRO CALGARY

Local page 4

**Will men go
extra mile?**



Sport page 12

Jays' old GM
in the wings?

"All of the arguments — restoring democracy, defending women's rights — none of these things have happened."

James Clark, Coalition to Stop the War

ures are based on the Defence Department's budgetary Estimates to Parliament.

Those opposed to the war question whether Canada is meeting its definitions of success. "All of the arguments — restoring democracy, defending women's rights — none of these things have happened," says James Clark of the Toronto Coalition to Stop the War.

She cites the increasing number of children in schools and women taking human rights, literacy, computer and teachers' training.

Pollsters say Canadians

are divided about Canada's presence in Afghanistan, with a slight majority favouring withdrawal if the Canadian casualty count grows. The intensity of

those positions will likely deepen with further casualties, says Nik Nanos, president of Nanos Research.

MORE COVERAGE ON
AFGHANISTAN, PAGES 6 & 7

Entertainment p16

Big screen
hits & misses



**Teen arrested
over online threat**

ARREST A 16-year-old former Airdrie junior high school student was arrested by B.C. RCMP after a complaint Aug. 19 alleging the teen made threats to the safety of students at George McDougall High School in Airdrie over MSN Messenger.

The male teen was charged with one count of uttering threats and will appear in Rossland Provincial youth court in B.C. Sept. 11.

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BEAUTY
at the Bay

Single-family home prices fall 8.9%

The average MLS sale price for a single-family home in the city fell by almost nine per cent in August compared to a year ago. The average price of a home was \$442,385, down 8.9 per cent. **METRO CALGARY**

Local



Sunridge Mall goes exotic

Conservation lessons are slated to hit Sunridge Mall in a frenzy Friday as Safari Jeff and Shannon bring their Great Green Adventure Show to the centre court, extolling the virtues of environmental stewardship through exotic animals like crocodiles and snakes. The show runs until Sunday.

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Drunk driving blitz nets 924 charges

RCMP A month-long campaign by Alberta RCMP to ramp up enforcement of impaired driving laws netted 924 charges — with 423 of those being 24-hour licence suspensions.

"The statistics clearly show that RCMP members are actively seeking out those who choose to drink and drive so they can be brought to justice," said Inspector James Stiles of the RCMP K Division Traffic Services. **METRO CALGARY**

ShareYourViews

calgaryletters@metronews.ca

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What's online today.

Watch a report on how reducing crime in Inglewood has provoked a spike in crime in neighbouring areas. Also, watch as friends and family gather in Nova Scotia to mark the ten-year anniversary of the crash of Swissair flight 111, and an actor lashes out against Barack Obama.

Back to school as usual

Calgary boards report few issues as new year kicks off

KRISTA SYLVESTER

krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Thousands of Calgary students were back in class yesterday and it was business as usual according to school officials.

Ted Flitton, spokesperson for the Calgary Board of Education, told Metro an estimated 100,580 public school students were back at it yesterday.

"Everyone is happy to be back."

Ted Flitton, rep
Calgary school board

"Everyone is happy to be back and we're looking forward to the new school year," he said.

Flitton said the schools, parents and students are still trying to deal with the bus driver shortage but he is hoping a pilot project helps ease the burden.



Mom Cindy Verot with her sons Triston, 10, and Aidan, 7, head to Red Deer Lake School for their first day of school. Nearly 145,000 Calgary kids headed into a new school year yesterday.

"We started allowing some drivers (to) keep their buses at the school in their community last year instead of driving to and from the headquarters, and it worked out well so we have expanded that this year."

Janet Sutherland, spokesperson for the Catholic School board said about 44,000 students in that system also headed back to school without anything unordinary.

City cops were also out in

full force patrolling school and playground zones and handing out fines to those with heavy foots.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

Mackay pans Grits in lead up to election call

DEFENCE As federal politicians hit the premature campaign trail with the writ expected to drop as early as Friday, Defence Minister Peter MacKay took aim at the Liberals yesterday after a presentation in Calgary, questioning their commitment to Canada's armed forces.

"I hope that other parties, rather than sniping from the cheap seats in opposition, will pronounce themselves on where they will stand in terms of continuing this momentum and support for the Canadian forces," MacKay said, noting substantial Conservative investment while both the Liberals and NDP have stood silent.

MacKay said other than unelected Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, who has been critical of Conservative moves on national emergency preparedness and military budgets, he has heard little from Liberal party leadership.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

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Canadian soldiers who took part in atomic testing and clean-ups in Cold Lake, Alta. In the 1950s will receive \$24,000 in compensation, federal defence minister Peter MacKay said Tuesday in Calgary. About 900 individuals or their estates are expected to get the payouts. METRO CALGARY

Soldiers involved in atomic testing to get compensation

Wanted: Men who'll go the extra mile

Calgary's males asked to help raise money to fight against domestic abuse

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca



A walk in her five-inch stilettos will go a long way.

The 3rd Annual Cardel Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event is a fun chance for local men to put some ladies footwear on and strut their stuff all in support of the YWCA Cardel Crisis Housing Fund.

"It gives men a chance to stand up for their wives,

"It gives men a chance to stand up for their wives, daughters and sisters and fight against domestic abuse."

Arlene Adamson

daughters and sisters and fight against domestic abuse," Arlene Adamson of the YWCA told Metro. "It



The 3rd annual Cardel Homes Walk a Mile in Her Shoes in support of the YWCA is looking for a few good men to help raise money in the fight against domestic abuse.

gives them a chance to be heroes and raise money

and awareness." Last year the event

raised \$100,000 and Adamson hopes his year will raise at least the same amount, if not more.

"It's also a way for people to understand these women who are not readily visible and need a safe place to call home."

Local celebrities gather at the event and have some fun walking around in pink shoes, high heel shoes, slippers — anything a woman wears, these men will wear.

"It's just a blast. The key

thing here is we're just having fun," Adamson said, recommending participants aim to raise \$1,000 each.

"One thousand isn't a lot when you pass the hat around, but one thousand makes a huge difference to these women."

Calgarians can nominate the man in their life, their boss or their friend for the event on Sept. 22 at noon at Olympic Plaza by registering online at www.walkamile.ca.

Hockey coaches must wear helmets when on the bench

INJURY Add buckets to the list of proper Calgary coach attire, as the city's hockey association has mandated all bench bosses to wear helmets when they're on the ice after a fall last season left a goalie

instructor with brain hemorrhage.

Calgary joined a growing list of municipal minor hockey associations yesterday, requiring coaches to wear helmets when on the ice.

METRO CALGARY

Rider awareness campaign started

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca



TRANSIT If you see it, report it — that's the message city cops and peace officers are partnering up to educate transit riders during a safety blitz this month.

Just in time for back to school, the Calgary police and transit public safety enforcement launched the 10th annual safety awareness campaign yesterday at the Chinook platform.

"We're dedicated to public safety and we're just trying to remind and educate riders about the rules of the platform," Insp. Blair White of district 8.

He added if riders witness something unusual, they should alert officers.

The blitz will put more uniformed and plain clothes officers on platforms and inside trains during the month, an idea transit rider Kim Jones is pleased with.

"I avoid riding the train because of the things that happen on it, but I found that when police officers ride, too, it seems a lot better, so I think it's a great



Constables Zeeb and Fassnidge give Claton Richard, 22, a warning about smoking too close to the LRT platform. Over the next few weeks police will be educating the public during a safety awareness campaign.

idea," she told Metro.

The awareness campaign runs until Sept. 25 and officers will be watching for spitting, swearing, fighting and other unruly behaviours.

"I avoid riding the train because of the things that happen on it, but I found that when police officers ride, too, it seems a lot better, so I think it's a great idea."

Kim Jones, transit rider

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KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

to become a no-kill city.

"I think it's pretty exciting. It will not only help low-income pet owners, but that, in turn, ends up helping the whole city and reduce costs," he added.

The clinic will offer a free neuter or spay program to those pet owners who cannot afford it, which will, in turn, reduce the number of animals ending up in the

Police searching for bank robber

HEIST Calgary cops are on the hunt for a white man in his late 30s after a Scotiabank heist on the 6300 block of 30 Street SE yesterday morning.

Around 11:10 a.m., the unshaven man, about 180 pounds and 5-foot-9, entered the bank, handing over a note before being given an undisclosed amount of cash and fleeing the scene.

METRO CALGARY

building plans

- Construction on the facility located at 2201 Portland St. SE is expected to last six months.

city's shelters.

"This will really benefit the Calgary Humane Society, since they usually end up with most unwanted pets."

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12 - 9250 MacLeod Trail S
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Canada's Mission in Afghanistan



Homecoming wave of relief

Edmonton soldiers returning from Afghanistan to get hero's welcome

JEFF CUMMINGS
Metro Canada

They have served their country proudly, and now they are about to return to a hero's welcome.

Starting tomorrow night, and continuing over the next six weeks, the roughly 1,200 Edmonton Garrison soldiers stationed in Afghanistan are due to rotate home.

To mark the occasion, Edmontonians are tying the city up in yellow: Ribbons will festoon trees, street lamps, power poles and houses.

"These men and women have been away from their families and community for so long and they've been through such inconceivable challenges and stress," said military wife Carolyn Patton.

Patton, the wife of a medical officer currently serving in Afghanistan, has had a ribbon tied in front of her home since her husband left for the mission in February.

"I know when I go to work that I will undoubtedly make it home alive," said Patton in a statement. "I can't imagine how soldiers live with the knowledge, day to day, that this might not be the case for them."



RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

Soldiers from the 1 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group begin the foot patrol into Parwan in this photo from 2006. Soldiers from Edmonton Garrison will be returning home from their Afghan mission beginning this week.

The costs of war have been brought home to the soldiers and families of Edmonton Garrison all too often since Canada's mission in Afghanistan began.

On April 18, 2002, four Edmonton soldiers died in Afghanistan in two separate incidents, adding to Canada's count of 93 soldiers felled in battle.

lot Maj. Harry Schmidt dropped a 500-pound bomb on a Canadian training exercise. Eight other soldiers were injured.

Last month, four Edmonton-based soldiers died in Afghanistan in two separate incidents, adding to Canada's count of 93 soldiers felled in battle.

Three soldiers were killed, another seriously injured when a massive roadside bomb blasted their armoured vehicle while on patrol in Zharey District.

The three soldiers were combat engineers with 12 Field Squadron, 1 Combat Regiment from Edmonton. While serving in

Afghanistan, they were part of the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group.

A husband and father of two young daughters, Sgt. Shawn Allen Eades was one of the three who died Aug. 20. The other two fallen soldiers are Cpl. Dustin Wasden, who was laid to rest today in Spiritwood, Sask., and Sapper Stephan John Stock.

Earlier last month, on Aug. 11, Cpl. Erin Doyle was killed in a firefight in Panjwaii district.

The relief will be felt across the city as the soldiers begin coming home after this deployment.

"There will be a reception planned Thursday night for them ... and we cannot stress how the community has been in supporting our troops," said Second Lt. Wright Eruebi, a spokesman with Canada's National Defence department.

Although an official time has yet to be announced, Eruebi said the welcome-home reception for the troops will kick off at the Field House in the Garrison Thursday night.

The reception promises to be a fitting tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed so much for their country.

Challenges remain for women in Afghanistan

KATE CARRAWAY
for Metro Canada

Any military conflict will be riddled with underlying political and social issues, but some wars reveal and challenge tremendous and long-standing problems. Such is the case with women's rights in Afghanistan.

Lauryn Oates is a Vancouver-based project director with the Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan organization and a freelance consultant on gender equity and human rights. When asked about the specific challenges that women in Afghanistan face, Oates says the implications of Afghan customs on women's lives are serious.

"Girls may not be permitted to study at the secondary level, or women may not be allowed to leave their homes unaccompanied by a male relative,"



Sgt. Roxanne Clowe from the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team visits with an Afghan woman and a child.

she said. Oates added that most marriages in Afghanistan are forced and often imposed on young, pre-pubescent girls. Domestic abuse is also an ongoing, systemic problem. Oates believes hope ex-

ists, though.

"The lifting of the Taliban's many misogynist edicts changed things significantly," she said. "There were previously no girls in school except for a minuscule number in clandestine

home schools, or attending schools in refugee camps in Peshawar. Now there are millions of girls back in school. Women can access health care now (they were forbidden from doing so under the Taliban)."

As dust settles, father's resolve remains strong

LINDSAY JONES
Metro Canada

Despite a death toll that continues to mount, the father of one fallen soldier from Nova Scotia says it only strengthens his resolve.

Jim Davis, whose son Cpl. Paul Davis was the first to die under Canadian command in 2006, says 93 soldiers is an awful price to pay, but the Afghan people need the chance to live in peace.

"You do question yourself — am I too caught up in it, too emotional?" said Davis. "But as the dust settles and the more I learn about the mission the more I become convinced. ... If we don't stay the course then we might as well pack it in from anywhere in the world and go home."

Facts on Canada's Afghan mission

Currently serving:

2,500 Canadian Forces personnel in Afghanistan, part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

Past service: Close to 20,000 Forces personnel have served in Afghanistan.

Canadian deaths: 93 soldiers

Diplomats killed: Glyn Berry, as a result of a car bomb Jan. 15, 2006, when he was travelling southeast of Kandahar City.

Aid workers killed: Jacqueline Kirk and Shirley Case, Aug. 13, 2008.

Afghan civilians killed:

The Canadian Defence Department does not keep figures on the number of Afghans killed or injured, says spokesperson Lt. Isabelle Riché. University of New Hampshire professor Marc Herold, tallying the deaths from public sources, puts the figures at 6,465 (conservative estimate) to 7,689 Afghan civilians killed as a direct result of U.S./NATO actions between October 2001 and Aug. 29, 2008.

Canadian soldiers injured: 280 wounded in action, as of Dec. 31, 2007; 395 non-battle-related injuries while serving in Afghanistan.

Full cost: \$7 billion as of March 31, 2008, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, based on Defence Department Estimates; includes cost of feeding, transporting and equipping Canadian Forces' personnel.

Incremental cost (operational cost): \$3 billion.

Duration of mission:

The Harper government has said Canada will stay in Afghanistan until 2011.

Other coalition forces:

40 nations have contributed troops, including the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia and Italy.

Children in school: 7 million today, versus 1.2 million in 2001. Today, 2 million of those schoolchildren are girls, according to NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Access to health care:

Up to 83 per cent of Afghans have access to basic health care, according to NATO, versus 8 per cent in 2001.

Laura Eggertson/
for Metro Canada

General's words

"When a soldier steps on foreign soil in a high-risk environment, every single Canadian should be walking with him or her." — Former Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**


Canada's Mission in Afghanistan

Canada's fallen heroes

A look back at those who paid the ultimate sacrifice between 2002 and 2008



Sapper Stephan Stock



Cpl. Dustin Wasden



Sgt. Shawn Eades



Master Cpl. Erin Doyle



Master Cpl. Joshua Roberts



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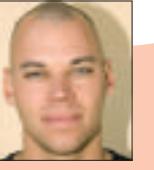
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Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard



Cpl. Albert Storm



Sgt. Darcy Tedford



Pte. Blake Williamson



Trooper Mark Andrew Wilson



Sgt. Craig Gillam



Cpl. Robert Mitchell



Pte. Josh Klukie



Cpl. Glen Arnold



Pte. David Byers



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Warrant Officer Frank R. Mellish



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Cpl. Andrew Eykelenboom



Master Cpl. Jeffrey Walsh



Master Cpl. Raymond Arndt



Pte. Kevin Dallaire



Sgt. Vaughan Ingram



Cpl. Bryce Keller



Cpl. Christopher Reid



Cpl. Francisco Gomez



Cpl. Jason Warren



Cpl. Anthony Boneca



Capt. Nichola Goddard



Cpl. Matthew Dinning



Bombardier Myles Mansell



Cpl. Randy Payne



Lt. William Turner



Pte. Robert Costall



Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson



Cpl. Paul Davis



Mr. Glyn Berry



Pte. Braun Woodfield



Cpl. Jamie Murphy



Cpl. Robbie Beerenfenger



Sgt. Robert Short



Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer



Pte. Richard Green



Sgt. Marc L  ger



Pte. Nathan Smith

Nunavut has highest minimum wage in Canada
Nunavut's new \$10-an-hour minimum wage will take effect this Friday, Sept. 5, an increase of \$1.50 over its current \$8.50. That will make it the highest minimum hourly rate in Canada. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

"He will develop Canada's capacity for a new era of prestige."

Industry minister Jim Prentice speaking about Steve MacLean's, right, appointment as head of the CSA.



New course

Astronaut Steve MacLean, who flew on two space shuttle missions to the International Space Station, will chart a new course as the head of Canadian Space Agency. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Tories within reach of majority: Poll

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion dismissed a poll yesterday that showed he was headed for defeat in an election expected for next month, saying he was determined to win.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose Conservatives won a minority government in January 2006, is expected to request the

dissolution of Parliament this week and call an election for Oct. 14.

A Strategic Counsel poll showed the Conservatives had the backing of 37 per cent of voters, close to the 40 per cent threshold that experts say gives them a strong chance of winning a majority.

"Polls are like surveys.

Economy over environment

- The Strategic Counsel poll said 15 per cent of voters felt the environment would be the most important issue in the

forthcoming election compared with 20 percent who were most concerned by the slowing economy.

They come and they go. What remains is our determination to win this

election for Canadians," Dion told reporters in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Strategic Counsel put the Liberals at 29 per cent and the New Democrats at 17.

The environmentalist Greens came in with 9 per cent.

Recent surveys by other polling companies showed the two top parties were tied.

Harper, who says Parlia-

ment has become dysfunctional, met Dion on Monday and asked him to back the government until October 2009.

Dion refused and said Harper and the Tories want to go to the polls before Canada feels the full effect of the U.S. economic slowdown.

REUTERS

Feds offering war veterans compensation

NUCLEAR The federal government said yesterday it would spend up to \$24 million compensating veterans forced to be exposed to

Cold War-era nuclear blasts but never recognized for their sacrifices.

The recognition of Canada's so-called atomic veterans, which comes days before an expected election call, also extends to military personnel who decontaminated an Ontario nuclear plant in the 1950s after two reactor accidents.

Earlier this year, some of the veterans launched a class-action lawsuit against Ottawa, saying many had suffered and died from the effects of radiation.

"We simply felt that now was the time to deliver on this commitment to see a form of financial recognition, but more importantly public acknowledgment, of the tremendous contribution that atomic veterans made to the security of our country," Defence Minister Peter MacKay said. **REUTERS**

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Bayswater Swissair memorial



Veronique Noceto of France shows the names of her parents on the Swissair Flight 111 memorial to her five-year-old daughter Kaitlyn during the 10th anniversary service in Bayswater, Nova Scotia, yesterday. The flight crashed into the sea off Nova Scotia on Sept. 2, 1998, claiming the lives of all 229 aboard.

Greens prepared to go to court over debates

POLITICS Green Party Leader Elizabeth May's fight to get a spot in the televised leaders' debates could wind up in the courts.

The Green Party has hired Toronto lawyer Peter Rosenthal to press May's case and is suggesting it could resort to legal action to make sure the party leader is able to join the four other political leaders for the election debates.

"The question is still up in the air, as we understand it, and the legal questions are pretty important. We want to have a focus on those. These are public airwaves. The airwaves belong to no private network," May said in an interview yesterday.

May says she cleared the last hurdle to participating in the debates with her surprise weekend an-



Elizabeth May

nouncement that Independent MP Blair Wilson had decided to sit as a Green MP. With an MP now representing the party, May says the party meets all the conditions used by CTV, CBC and Global to decide participation in the past.

But the stations have yet to rule on her appearance and her participation remains uncertain.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dion to adjust Green Shift

CARBON TAX Stéphane Dion is moving to fine-tune his much-disputed carbon tax with up to \$1 billion in promised aid for truckers, farmers, fishing boat owners and others who would feel the direct impact of higher fuel costs under the Liberal leader's environmental plan.

Change coming

Will address:

- Concerns raised by farmers, truckers and fishing boat owners who would have to pay more for fuel
- The economy's dependence on fossil fuels and possible alternatives

Dion, who is in Winnipeg for a three-day caucus retreat, will today begin announcing changes to his Green Shift proposal, which Liberals admit has prompted alarm among some Canadians.

But the Liberal leader denied he is being forced to water down his proposed "green" strategy to make it saleable in an election campaign expected to be launched this week or over the weekend with an eye on Oct. 14 as an election date.

"On the contrary, we will strengthen it," Dion said, explaining the changes to the Green Shift plan first unveiled in June. "It will be better for the environment."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Correction

The Swissair story on yesterday's Canada page said that of the 23 recommendations for regulators of the industry made by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, "only two" were adopted. For the purpose of clarity, it should be said that six of the 23 recommendations made by the board were rated with varying levels of satisfaction.

Six dead in Washington shooting spree

Six people are dead — including a sheriff's deputy — and two injured after a shooting rampage in Washington state yesterday afternoon. The suspect in the shootings turned himself in at the Skagit County sheriff's office in Mount Vernon. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

World

Picking up after Gustav

New Orleans' 1.9 million evacuees to return

Workers fanned out across New Orleans yesterday to clean up after Hurricane Gustav, but officials told hundreds of thousands of evacuees to stay away a bit longer.

Half of New Orleans still lacked power and the sewage system was damaged. But floodwaters from Gustav ebbed, easing pressure on the storm barriers that failed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Louisiana officials reported six storm-related

deaths. With 1.4 million homes and businesses affected, officials said the 1.9 million evacuated citizens must stay away. Business owners will be allowed back into New Orleans today, and residents on Thursday.

The American Red Cross focused its attentions on had 60,000 people in shelters across the Gulf Monday night.

Gustav barged ashore on the Gulf Coast Monday as a weaker storm with 110

Killer storm

- Gustav killed nearly 100 people in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica last week, where it made landfall as a hurricane.

mph winds. Many feared a repeat of the damage caused by Katrina, the costliest hurricane in U.S. history, which flooded 80 per cent of the city and left thousands stranded.

REUTERS

News in brief

YOUTH Researchers have noticed a spike in suicides by youth between 10 and 19. Rates jumped by about 18 per cent in 2004, canceling a steady decline over the past

decade. The increase coincided with government warnings about the use of anti-depressants in teenagers and adolescents, causing some doctors to believe they may be linked.

CONGO A Canadian was among 17 passengers in a plane carrying aid workers that crashed in the Democratic Republic of Congo Monday. All 17 are feared dead.

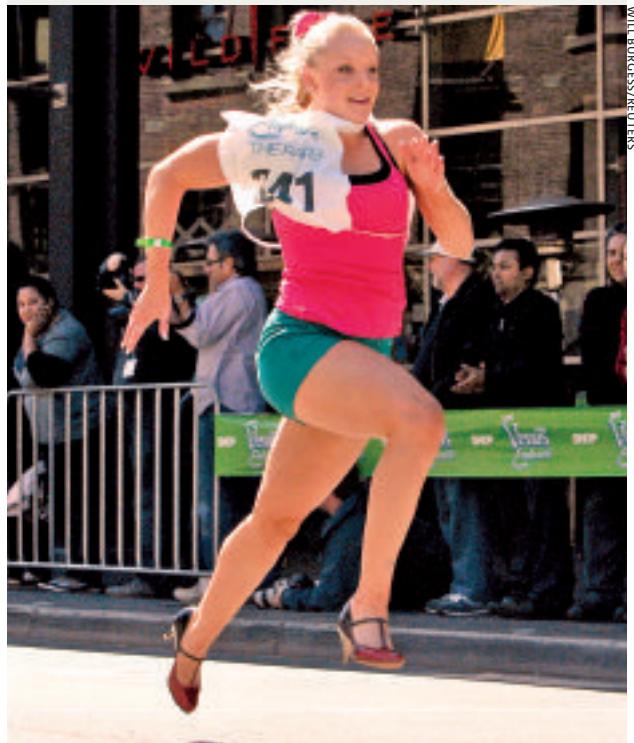
REUTERS



Clooney boosts Obama

George Clooney has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama through an exclusive event in Geneva, Switzerland. Some 170 contributors paid \$1,000 a head to hear him speak at a cocktail party held in a museum, while 75 more paid \$10,000 to attend a "private dinner". **REUTERS**

Australia Heels of steel



Brittney McGlone, 18, charges to victory in a stiletto sprint race for a prize of A\$5,000 (\$4,250) in Sydney yesterday.

Palin fuels 'mom wars'

POLITICS News that Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin is running for office while parenting an infant son with Down Syndrome and a pregnant 17-year-old has drawn debate from both political sides.

"My only reservation would be that her son has Down Syndrome and ... her being away so much," said Lindsay Matlock, a volunteer at this week's Republican convention.

Some, meanwhile, say it would be sexist to question her ability to juggle motherhood and work.

"If we say a woman can't have a career when her children are babies, we are discriminating based on gender," said Democrat Barbara Matousek, a Wisconsin engineer and working mother of an infant. **REUTERS**

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Smoking dispute led to shooting death
Former British heavyweight boxing champion James Oyebola was shot in the neck in a nightclub after asking a group of men to stop smoking, a court heard yesterday. Prosecutor Jeremy Donne told the Old Bailey that the boxer died after the "senseless" shooting in July 2007. **REUTERS**

Army refuses to use force

Thai soldiers would not use force to evict protesters occupying the prime minister's office, army chief Anupong Paochinda said yesterday despite a state of emergency giving him the power to do so.

"If we thought we could use police and soldiers to get them out with a peaceful conclusion, we would do it. But we think that that would create more problems," he told reporters after a man died in clashes between pro- and anti-government protesters.

The emergency powers invoked by Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej banned public meetings, declared government buildings off limits, and restricted media reports that incite unrest.

The state of emergency is the culmination of more than 100 days of street protests by an anti-government



Army soldiers stand guard between pro and anti-government demonstrators after they clashed early morning in Bangkok yesterday. At least one man was killed and 34 hurt in overnight clashes.

ment group which accuses Samak of being an illegitimate proxy of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, now living in exile in

London after skipping bail on graft charges last month.

But with the army reluctant to enforce the emergency decree — Anupong

said his unarmed soldiers would act only as a buffer between the protesters — the stand-off looked set to drag on.

REUTERS

News in brief

CARS Rising incomes and a young population eager to flaunt its wealth are combining to fuel demand for luxury cars in India, but sales still lag China and Russia. **REUTERS**

Paul hosts his own Republican convention

RALLY Thousands of Ron Paul supporters gathered yesterday in a show of support for the former Republican presidential candidate, who has been mar-

ginialized at his own party's convention.

The libertarian-leaning Texas congressman sold more than 10,000 tickets, at \$17.76 US each, to a

day-long "Rally for the Republic" at a basketball arena across the river from the Republican convention.

REUTERS

Global warming may cut plague cases: Study

CLIMATE Rare outbreaks of plague in the United States seem to match climate shifts over the Pacific Ocean in a hint that global warming may make the region too hot and dry for the disease, scientists said today.

Feared as the "Black Death" of the 14th century that killed an estimated 50 million people, plague is still a threat mainly in Africa. The western United States has had 430 cases since 1950, or about seven per year.

The scientists, based in Norway, the United States and Sweden, said the number of U.S. infections seemed to vary with a natural shift between warm

and cool ocean conditions known as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) that can last 20-30 years.

Until now, researchers had been unable to explain swings in the number of cases — ranging from 40 in 1983 at a warm part of the PDO to almost none in the 1950s, a cool phase. The plague bacteria is spread to humans by fleas living on rats.

"Periods of high plague activity are likely to decrease in the western United States over the coming decades, especially in the active four corners region — New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Utah," the study said.

REUTERS

Gay marriages get boost in NY

JUDGE New York officials should recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries where they are legal, even though New York State does not allow gay marriage, a state court judge ruled yesterday.

Justice Lucy Billings re-

jected arguments by the national Alliance Defense Fund that New York Gov. David Paterson overstepped his authority in May when he instructed officials to recognize same-sex marriages conducted outside New York.

REUTERS

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Subject: Graphic Designer at METRO

We thank all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Bombardier wins Swiss rail cars order

Bombardier Inc. said its rail subsidiary, in partnership with Germany's Siemens, has won a \$277 million US order to build 121 double-decker rail cars for the federal railway in Switzerland, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Google unveils browser

CHROME Google Inc.'s new browser software is designed to work "invisibly" and will run any application that runs on Apple's Safari browser, company officials said yesterday.

The company said the

new web browser, dubbed Google Chrome is now available for download at <http://www.google.com/chrome/>. The public trial of the browser will be available in 43 languages in 100 countries.

REUTERS

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GM in India Igniting a Spark



PUNIT PARANJPE/REUTERS

Workers at General Motors' new plant in India's western Maharashtra state, prepare to roll out the Spark passenger car yesterday. GM's chief operating officer Fritz Henderson said the company will continue investments in emerging markets as it strives to turn around its North American business.

Business in brief

IPOD Apple Inc. is expected to unveil new iPod music players, and possibly price cuts, next Tuesday but not a long-awaited update to its MacBook laptops until a later date.

CORRUPTION A Las Vegas court Friday convicted two former Bank of China managers and their wives in a \$485 million money laundering and racketeering scheme. **REUTERS**

Oil tumbles after Gustav

Canadian energy stocks, including heavyweights Suncor Energy and Imperial Oil, tumbled with oil and gas prices yesterday after initial assessments showed hurricane Gustav spared major U.S. Gulf production facilities.

Oil fell 5 per cent to \$109.71 US a barrel, and natural gas futures skidded 8.6 per cent to \$7.261 per million British thermal units.

Canadian spot natural gas in Alberta sank to an eight-month low, averaging \$6.13 per gigajoule.

Oil could get stuck in the current range, assuming minimal storm damage to Gulf facilities and slack demand for crude amid the weak U.S. economy. Work-

Pumping again

- Full resumption of output in the Gulf of Mexico, where 25 per cent of U.S. oil and 15 per cent of the natural gas is produced, could take a couple of weeks.

ing against that could be a cut in production from OPEC, which meets next week, FirstEnergy Capital analyst Martin King said.

But natural gas prices may be in for a further slide, with inventories climbing quickly after moderate North American weather in the second half of August.

"There's no OPEC to fall back on for this one," King said.

REUTERS

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THE HAVERHILL INSTITUTE OF STAGING & DESIGN

The Miami Heat signed free agent centre Jamaal Magloire yesterday. Magloire, a Toronto native, split the 2007-08 season between the New Jersey Nets and the Dallas Mavericks. He averaged 1.8 points and 2.9 rebounds in 9.2 minutes per game. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Panthers acquire veteran McCabe

NHL Bryan McCabe's stay in Toronto has officially come to an end. The Florida Panthers acquired the veteran defenceman, left, along with a fourth-round pick in 2010 from the Maple Leafs yesterday in exchange for blue-liner Mike Van Ryn.

Vipers take lead in playoff series

BASEBALL The Calgary Vipers used a terrific pitching performance to defeat the Edmonton Cracker-Cats 8-4 in Game One of the Golden

Baseball League's North

Division Finals at Telus

Field in Edmonton. Joe

Sergent went seven and

two third innings, giving

up only one run on six hits

while picking up the win.

With the win the Vipers

take the 1-0 series lead

over the Cracker-Cats.

Bombers, Lions swap star backs

CFL The Winnipeg Blue Bombers and British Columbia Lions pulled off a deal yesterday, with the Bombers sending running back Charles Roberts to B.C. in exchange for running back Joe Smith.

Roberts is currently fifth in the league with 517 rushing yards, and ranks fourth in attempts with 111.

Smith has compiled 236 rushing yards and three TDs on 55 attempts for the Lions in 2008.

Jaguar critical after shooting

NFL Jacksonville Jaguars offensive tackle Richard Collier is in critical but stable condition after being shot early yesterday morning.

The Florida Times-Union reports that Collier and former Jaguars teammate Kenneth Pettway had been out at clubs, and were following two women they had met back to an apartment complex to continue their evening together when the shooting took place.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



McCabe

York Report

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Decision-makers in the Blue Jays' hierarchy are seriously thinking of going back to the future.

Again.

Sources tell Metro the Jays' ownership is privately pondering the idea of bringing back Pat Gillick to Toronto after this season. Gillick would either work directly under or replace his long-time friend, Jays president Paul Godfrey.

And, before you go off snickering about this, I'll

remind you that these same sources told us back on May 13 that Cito Gaston was a possibility to be rehired as the Jays' manager. That was five weeks before it actually happened. (Look that up at metronews.ca if you'd like a reminder.)

Gillick, of course, was the Jays' general manager during their halcyon days, including their World Series years in 1992 and 1993. He is planning to retire as the Philadelphia Phillies' GM after this season.

As MLB insider Ken Rosenthal reported recently, though, "Gillick is a baseball lifer. Even though he is 71, few envision him walking away."

Godfrey's contract expires after the season. J.P. Ricciardi's pact as the Jays'

will be former champion Andy Roddick, who dashed into the quarters by beating Chilean 11th seed Fernando Gonzalez 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

Roger Federer survived a tough match, the wind was changing with either side, it went from day to night session which is never easy. It was tough conditions but I'm happy we put on a good show," a relieved Federer said after his 3 1/2 hour win.

Weakened by a dodgy

stomach and stricken by a hip injury, Djokovic hobbled past 15th-seeded Spaniard Tommy Robredo 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Next up for the Serbian



Tiger to welcome new cub

Elin Woods, wife of world No. 1 Tiger, is expecting the couple's second child. "Elin and I are proud to announce we are expecting our second child in late winter," Tiger wrote on his website yesterday. The couple's first baby, daughter Sam Alexis, was born on June 18, 2007.

REUTERS

Gillick set to soar back to Jays?

World championship architect could postpone retirement: Source

Fancy footwork

• Oddsmakers are listing former NFLer Warren Sapp as a 30-to-1 longshot to win the next Danc-

ing with the Stars. Close behind him, at 40-to-1, is 82-year-old actress Cloris Leachman.

GM runs through 2010 but, as Rosenthal reported, he's "in trouble. He creates problems for himself with his bluntness, and in six seasons has yet to produce a playoff team, even though ownership has increased payroll to nearly \$100-million."

• The aforementioned sources whispered the Jays also are ending their long-term affiliation with Syracuse and may move their Triple-A franchise to Columbus, Ohio. Buffalo would make sense, too ... The careers of Jeff Kent and

Frank Thomas, ex-Jays and future Hall of Famers, appear to be over because of surgeries required on their knee and quad, respectively ... Another Hall of Fame shoo-in, the St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols entered last night needing to drive in only nine runs to become the third hitter in MLB history to record 100 RBIs in his first eight seasons. He'd join the select company of Ted Williams and Al Simmons and would surpass Joe DiMaggio.

• Ricky Williams is back as the Miami Dolphins'

main running back but he simultaneously is studying osteopathy and plans to become a doctor.

Williams said: "I like to make people feel better," something he did for the Argonauts only after he left them.

• The Argos' Arland Bruce has been fined by the CFL for the Spider-Man mask he wore (not cool, not funny) after a touchdown in Hamilton Monday ... The Winnipeg Blue Bombers will sign former Tiger-Cat quarterback Timmy Chang ... Don't be surprised if Charlie Taaffe will soon be Hamilton's former coach.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Federer survives, Djokovic crawls at Open



World No. 2 Roger Federer of Switzerland was forced to work hard last night to earn a five-set victory over Igor Andreev of Russia at the U.S. Open in New York.

will be former champion Andy Roddick, who dashed into the quarters by beating Chilean 11th seed Fernando Gonzalez 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

Roger Federer survived a tough match, the wind was changing with either side, it went from day to night session which is never easy. It was tough conditions but I'm happy we put on a good show," a relieved Federer said after his 3 1/2 hour win.

Weakened by a dodgy

stomach and stricken by a hip injury, Djokovic hobbled past 15th-seeded Spaniard Tommy Robredo 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Next up for the Serbian

7-6 winner over fifth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko.

With the men hogging all the limelight, Olympic champion Elena Dementieva and second seed Jelena Jankovic tip-toed into the

women's semifinals.

Dementieva earned a 6-2, 6-3 win over Switzerland's Patty Schnyder, while Jankovic eased to a 6-1, 6-4 win over Austrian Sybille Bammer.

REUTERS

Blue Jays get rookie off hook

Blue Jays 7 Twins 5

MLB This was something of an out-of-character night for David Purcey and the Blue Jays' offence.

The young lefty failed to replicate his brilliant start last week in Tampa — an 11-strikeout complete game — lasting just three innings last night against the visiting Minnesota Twins.

Purcey left an untidy scoreboard, a 5-1 deficit which appeared insurmountable given the fact the Twins protect leads very well and are locked in a battle for first with the White Sox in the AL's Central Division.

But the Jays, with the third-lowest home run total in the AL, erupted for 17 hits, including three home runs in the fifth and sixth innings, to claim a 7-5 victory.

The Jays have struggled in the homer department all season but had everyone fooled last night.

Their efforts included back-to-back shots in the fifth by Jose Bautista and Alex Rios and a two-run shot in the sixth from Lyle Overbay that put them up 6-5.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W L PCT GB

WEST DIVISION

W L PCT GB

W L PCT

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH:
carguide
magazine.com



Walk on the wild side

Caliber SRT4 delivers big bang for the buck without compromising fun

B. MC LAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada



You could say Dodge's Caliber SRT4 is one case where the marketing message meets the metal.

Its snout is bold and sculpted, as is the rear. Large headlamps and tail lamps dominate the corners. Prominent, squared shoulders and protruding wheel arches give the impression the SRT4 is larger than it actually is and help contribute to a tough-guy stance too.

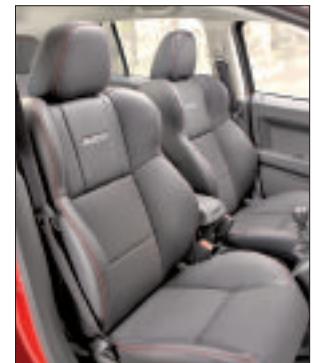
Right, let's get the bread-and-butter stuff on the table first. You can get your Caliber in lesser SE, SXT and R/T trim. The SE and SXT get a 148 hp, 1.8-litre 'four' mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

Their optional automatic is a continuously variable transmission (CVT), which must be mated to the 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. The sporty R/T combines the CVT with a 172 hp, 2.4-litre four. Prices run in the \$16,000 to \$22,000 range. Incidentally, all-wheel-drive is available on the R/T model.

But when Dodge's Street Racing Technology ... get it, SRT? ... gang created the \$24,995 SRT4, they stuffed in a 285 hp, 2.4-litre turbocharged four-banger and a six-speed stick to strike fear into the heart of god-fearing church-going



Anyone looking for great value, great performance and innovative features, the Caliber measures up.



2009 Dodge Caliber SRT4

Type: Compact 5-passenger hatchback FWD
Price: \$24,995
Engine: 2.4-litre L4 DOHC turbo
HP: 285 @ 5,700 rpm
Torque: 265 @ 2,000 – 5,600 rpm

Highlights

- Aggressive styling
- Performance
- Cargo room
- Safety equipment
- Bang for the buck



Inside, the SRT4 doesn't seem like a compact. The front compartment is quite roomy.

econoboxes of all stripes. At \$26,170, as tested, our SRT4 included Goodyear F1 performance tires on polished wheels (\$250) and a \$925 Option group comprising mostly minor and frivolous frills.

If you need a lift to see out, however, the manual pump-action seat adjuster trades thigh support for seat height in a way that might not suit all body types.

Inside, the SRT4 doesn't seem like a compact. The front compartment is quite roomy, and the 60/40-split rear seats are comfortable enough for two. Legroom is limited for the middle passenger because of the floor-mounted cupholders.

If you're tall enough, you can lever down the driver's seat for a classic legs-out, low-slung sports car driving position.

But the best thing about this hot Caliber, apart from its bang for the buck, is its exhilarating combination of rapid acceleration, good shift action, informative steering, firmly cushioned (if a bit choppy) ride, terrific handling and satisfying hard-edged snarl

from the exhaust system. But, be advised, torque steer is at times prodigious, as is the front end's tendency to 'wash out' if you get on the power too

soon in mid-turn; mid-corner bumps can also unsettle it and the optional F1 tires aren't too happy with wet pavement.

That said, anyone looking for great value, reasonable fuel economy, great performance, versatile storage capacity and innovative features, the Caliber measures up.

Modern technology makes diesel myths history

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Many car owners still have outdated perceptions of diesels. Today's diesel passenger vehicles are fuel efficient, clean and provide drivers with greater performance than comparable gasoline vehicles. You could call this diesel advantage: Good, Clean, Fun.

Good

Diesel passenger vehicles offer 30 per cent better fuel economy, on average, compared to gasoline passenger vehicles, which means drivers make fewer trips to the pump. As a matter of fact, consumers save money every time they go to the pump even though diesel fuel prices are currently higher when compared to gasoline.

Clean

Diesel-powered vehicles, when compared to their gasoline counterparts, benefit the environment by re-



Cars such as this diesel-powered Jetta SportsWagen give the much-maligned fuel a good name.

ducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 25 per cent. Today's clean diesel vehicles comply with all

government emission regulations. With particulate filters, what comes out of the tailpipe (exhaust gas) typically contains fewer particles than the air entering the vehicle's engine — the particulate filter literally acts as a cleaner.

Fun

Diesels offer a premium performance experience due to a 50 per cent increase in torque (especially at low rpm) — the force that allows cars to accelerate smoothly and powerfully — compared to gasoline passenger vehicles.

This premium performance experience includes increased acceleration and power at the point of acceleration as well as an ability to tow heavier loads for longer periods of time, compared to gasoline vehicles.

Diesels are a durable, fuel-efficient and eco-friendly powertrain option that provides superior performance. For drivers who want to save money at the pump without sacrificing their driving experience, diesel is a great option.

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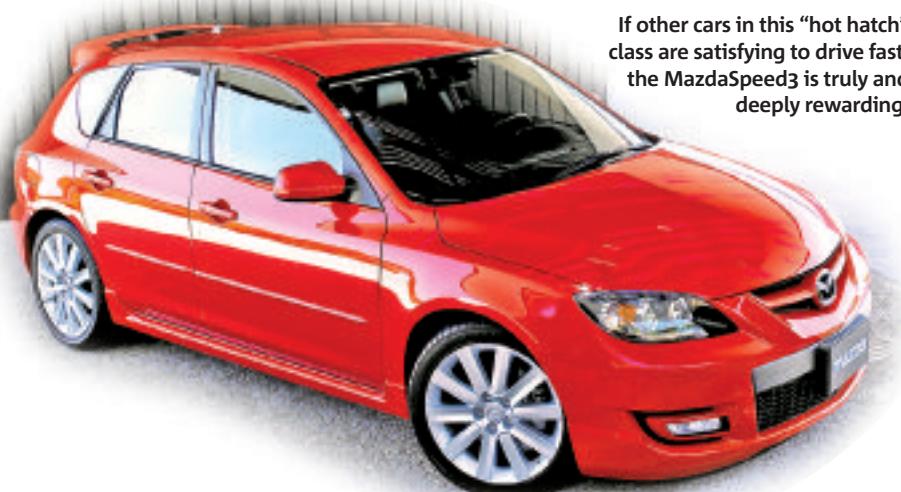
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If other cars in this "hot hatch" class are satisfying to drive fast, the MazdaSpeed3 is truly and deeply rewarding.

Highway hero

Mazdaspeed3 a sweet little road rocket

B. MC LAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

2009 Mazdaspeed3

Type: Compact 5-pass hatchback FWD
Price: \$29,360
Engine: 2.3L L4 DOHC turbo
HP: 263 @ 5,500 rpm
Torque: 280 @ 3,000 rpm

Highlights

- High performance with civility
- Refined yet aggressive styling
- Excellent brakes
- Steering feel
- Cabin comforts

ment here that the dynamic little 'Speed3 caters well to one's creature comforts and general driving pleasure.

But what really makes the difference between this four-door hatchback and the more mundane 156 horsepower Sport GT hatchback is a 2.3-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine making 263 hp that nestles beneath the Mazdaspeed3's rakishly sloped hood.

There's also a front centre console armrest with dual covered storage compartments, front door storage pockets with bottle holders, driver's side setback pocket, a rear centre armrest with two cupholders, and AM/FM audio with MP3 capability, steering wheel mounted audio controls, auxiliary audio input jack and a sporty roof antenna.

So, you'll get no argu-

wheel in your hands.

Also helping to make this power more manageable are full-on performance tires — mounted on good-looking 18-inch alloy wheels — that stick like superglue. That and superb braking performance plus a lovely liveliness in the handling department make the 'Speed3 sheer delight to thread through the tightest turns.

Inside, the Mazdaspeed3 looks tasteful and neatly executed with a high-grade black-on-black interior and red stitching accents, exclusive trim elements and a nice arrangement of electroluminescent gauges that distinguish it from the remainder of the Mazda3 family. The Mazda's back seat is also a pretty comfortable place to lounge in.

Comfy back seat notwithstanding, the responsive Mazdaspeed3 is all about the driver. If other cars in this "hot hatch" class are satisfying to drive fast, the 'Speed3 is truly and deeply rewarding. At \$29,360 it may be more expensive than some (though the '09 price is down from the 2008 model's \$31,095), but as a performance driving tool for those who know how to use it, the Mazdaspeed3 is worth every penny.

Chevy reveals Cruze details

SEDAN The first photos of Chevrolet's all-new Cruze sedan reveal a dynamic four-door coupe that proves exciting design and value are not mutually exclusive.

An arching roof-line, extends from the steeply raked windshield to sloping rear pillars and short rear deck, bringing coupe-like proportions to the sedan that will ultimately replace the current Cobalt



Chevrolet Cruze

model.

Its purposeful stance with the wheels located at the outer edges of the taut-

ly drawn bodywork, noticeably tight body panel fits and restrained use of exterior trim add to a high quality, "hewn from solid" appearance.

The Cruze will go on sale worldwide in 2009 — initially in Europe with a North American debut to follow — and will battle it out in the market against the Ford Focus, Honda Civic and similar products.

Montana art exhibition on until Dec. 20

The Hockaday Museum of Art, home to Montana's Artistic Legacy, is housed in a turn of the century building in the heart of historic downtown Kalispell, Montana. Visit hockadaymuseum.org for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel



Out of your shell

The Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival runs Sept. 19 to 21, with mussels, clams and oysters among the briny offerings. There will also be chowder-cooking competitions for local and international chefs, along with daily culinary demonstrations during the festival.

Visit peishellfish.com for more.

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Living a Monk-like existence

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

It's 3:45 a.m., and I've been awoken by the loud banging of a wooden percussion instrument. I slip into my itchy grey training suit and make my way blindly up a set of stone steps. At the top, a monk is ceremoniously striking a drum while sleepy tourists silently file into temple.

Here at the Lotus Lantern International Meditation Centre, a two-hour drive from Seoul, South Korea, visitors can spend a night experiencing the life of a monk. This 12-year-old temple complex was designed for foreigners looking to study Buddhism.

Tourists sleep on a traditional Korean cot, wake up at the crack of dawn, eat simple food, wash their own dishes, meditate and learn the philosophical principles of Zen Buddhism.

Though an overnight stay is short, the goal is to inspire visitors to learn more.

My introduction to monkhood begins in the golden temple with some early morning chanting. Breathing deeply, I take in my surroundings: the smell of incense, a gleaming gold statue of Buddha,

more online

For more information on South Korea and temple stays, log onto visitkorea.or.kr



A monk at the Lotus Lantern International Meditation Centre in South Korea solemnly rings a bell. The centre comprises a temple complex designed for foreigners looking to study Buddhism.

the deep hum of meditative monks.

Reciting the "Bopsheen Jeeriohn," the monks prepare for their prostrations — 108 prostrations, to be exact. Hands pressed together, bending down to the kneeling position, I try to follow their lead.

I place my forehead to the floor and my palms on the ground. Part squat, part push up, part penitence, the prostrations are strenuous and hard on the knees. After 20, I start to question whether I can do all 108.

"The greater pain your body feels the heavier negative karma you have," reads a nearby sign. By this logic, I'm ridden with bad karma. Blood pumping and knees cracking, I continue to struggle with the prostrations while the

monks perform their early morning ritual calmly and with ease. Clearly, I need some practice at this spiritual practice. From the temple, our group of wannabe monks move to the meditation room.

Sitting crossed-legged on a cushion, I sit up straight and try to clear my mind. "Meditation is a tool which helps us be present in the moment, rather than living in the past or the future," says Alexander, a Russian monk who's been studying here for the past five years. Counting my

breaths in and out, I feel relaxed, my mind concentrated.

But my focus doesn't last long. A pesky mosquito buzzes around me like a kamikaze pilot, coming in for a crash landing.

Since Buddhists don't believe you should kill living creatures (blood-sucking mosquitoes included) I have no choice but to gently swat it away and try to regain my meditative focus.

Normally, my mind is continually making to-do lists, so meditation

doesn't come easily. It's hard for me to imagine how monks such as Alexander are able to spend most of their days dedicated to the pursuit. After the experience, I realize that while I'm drawn to the philosophical principles of Buddhism (living in the present moment, renouncing desire for money and material objects) when I come face to face with worldly pleasures, I crack.

For example, the monks believe that food is meant to sustain the body for enlightenment rather than for enjoyment. But I'm not nearly disciplined enough to think of nirvana when faced with temporary indulgences like banana splits, bacon cheeseburgers or eggs Benedict.

Extra hollandaise sauce, please.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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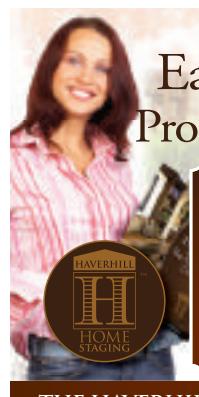
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Sir Paul McCartney has written a love song for his girlfriend Nancy Shevell that will reportedly be on his new album. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

L.A. Confidential tops movie list

FILM L.A. Confidential has topped a new list of films made about Los Angeles culture, imdb.com reports.

The 1997 cop drama beat Boogie Nights and Jackie Brown in the new Los Angeles Times newspaper poll. The year 1997 appears to have been a vintage time for Tinseltown at the movies — the top three films all came out that year.

The Top 10:

- 1. L.A. Confidential
- 2. Boogie Nights
- 3. Jackie Brown
- 4. Boyz N The Hood
- 5. Beverly Hills Cop
- 6. The Player
- 7. Clueless
- 8. Repo Man
- 9. Collateral
- 10. The Big Lebowski

Big screen hits and misses

The Dark Knight delivered, the Love Guru disappointed this summer

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada



Like a long-weekend barbecue, this past summer movie season delivered a smorgasbord that featured some inevitable winners and losers. There were thick, juicy grilled steaks like The Dark Knight ... and then there was the rank potato salad of The Love Guru.

So, as summer winds down, Metro looks back at some of these small victories and big flops, helping narrow down your autumn DVD rental/illegal Internet streaming choices.

Not happening — Up there with aliens and dead people, M. Night Shyamalan's The Happening pinpoints humankind's next logical fear: nature fighting back! Shyamalan tries to stay hip by addressing today's concerns of climate change through the

thriller movie medium. The Happening fails in story, acting, concept and pretty much every avenue of suspense and Wahlberg's performance is less exciting than a Funky Bunch reunion.

Brotherly love — Will Ferrell resurrects his love-hate bromance with John C. Reilly in the hilarious Step Brothers. The duo prompts guffaws with their portrayal of grown men living at home, creating the hell for their parents children from five through 25 typically do. Ferrell expresses exaggeration without going over the top, bringing us back to his Zoolander days.

Trade in the Ford — Oh, how Harrison Ford must need a paycheque. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull sees the Ford trudge through the jungle on a journey to replace an ancient quartz



The Dark Knight, starring Heath Ledger, was a summer movie hit.

skull to its home. As if the introduction of interdimensional aliens wasn't enough of an indication that this franchise has seen one too many re-

newals, Jones's secret life-saving weapon — a refrigerator — surely is.

Knight is king — Even if you detest action films and/or comic book adapta-

tions, it's difficult to knock The Dark Knight. While Christian Bale's Batman sounds like a cross between Yoda and Godfather, Don Corleone, at least Heath Ledger's Joker pulls a posthumous punch as the film's antagonist. At times chillingly un-Ledger-like, his performance sets a certain villainous precedent for future arm hair-raisers.

Chopra wannabe — Mike Myers' The Love Guru sees Myers as Guru Pitka, trying to crack the American self-help industry. The Guru is unfunny, an unparalleled character to Austin Powers and simply unfortunate. With childish genital jokes and awkward-in-a-bad-way comedic attempts by Jessica Alba and Justin Timberlake, The Love Guru is less than transcendental. The Love Guru pokes fun at Canadians worse than a Just For Laughs Gags marathon.

In brief

STAGE The Pussycat Dolls are reportedly set to star in a new musical movie loosely based on their lives, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singers are said to be considering scripts which focus on the history of the band and allow them to showcase their acting skills.

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Shifts will be 4 hours in length and pay will be \$15/hr.

If this sounds like you please send your resume and head shot and put "Yogurt" in the subject line. Send your application to awaters@thinkboxnational.com, or contact Alan Waters at 780.628.4736 for more information.

Kruger takes Tarantino role

Diane Kruger has joined the cast of Quentin Tarantino's upcoming film *Inglourious B*****ds*. She will play Bridget Von Hammersmark, an actress who gets caught up in a plot to attack the Nazis. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Sometimes life imitates TV

PALINDROME: Republican presidential candidate John McCain's choice of Alaska governor Sarah Palin as his running mate has fuelled a media frenzy that hasn't exactly been edifying to watch. First of all there was a seedy rumour suggesting that Palin had faked her recent pregnancy to cover for her oldest daughter's maternity, a rumour that was duly rubbished when news broke that the same 17-year-old daughter was actually pregnant.

The first breathless rumour was actually a plot-line from the recent season of *Desperate Housewives*, and it's not the only attempt made in the last week to describe Palin and McCain with a vocabulary of TV metaphors. The Boston Globe ran a "separated at birth" comparison between the Republican candidates and Col. Tigh and President Lara Roslin from *Battlestar Galactica*, which was kinda clever when you looked at four carefully chosen photos placed next to each other,

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

and contemplated the whole "junior member of executive branch suddenly thrust into position of leadership" meme that seems to fascinate everyone.

Of course, you'd have to overlook the inconvenient childlessness of Roslin versus the apparent superfecundity of Palin, and try to forget that McCain has both of his eyes, hasn't killed his wife for spying, and isn't a Cylon. But don't try to tell that to the Democrats. Frankly, this is all getting too geeky for me — let's move on.

Next in line was writer and producer Rod Lurie speculating to the Hollywood Reporter that the Republican party owes him a credit for the McCain/Palin ticket, as it's an eerie echo



TORONTO STAR

Republican presidential candidate John McCain's choice of Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate has fuelled a media frenzy.

of Commander In Chief, his ABC series starring Geena Davis as the first female president that was cancelled during its first season three years ago.

"It's unbelievable isn't it?" said Lurie. "I think that Geena and I need to be paid royalties by the Republicans."

Lurie, an Obama supporter, should have paused before hitting the cocky button, since his prophetic

role is dependent on McCain winning and dying in office, necessitating the unprecedented swearing-in of his vice-president.

It would also help if Palin was a liberal Democrat, parachuted in to support a weak Republican campaign, and not a pro-life, pro-gun Republican like Palin.

During its brief lifespan, Commander In Chief was both celebrated and criti-

cized for being preemptive propaganda for a Hillary Clinton presidential run that was once presumed to be a sure thing — it seems like so long ago now, doesn't it?

Of course, if you buy Lurie's logic, he should be paying royalties to Geraldine Ferraro.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Hollywood's top voice dies at 68

DEATH Voiceover legend Don LaFontaine has died after suffering from a collapsed lung, imdb.com reports. The dramatic star, known as the King of Voiceovers, died at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Monday, aged 68. During his lengthy career, LaFontaine lent his booming vocal chords to more than 5,000 movie trailers and 300,000 radio and TV commercials, including advertisements for corporate giants such as McDonalds, Coca-Cola and Budweiser.

Montreal festival picks Japan film

ACCOLADES The Montreal World Film Festival gave its top jury prize to Japanese director Yojiro Takita's *Okuribito* (Departures), while the top audience awards went to Canadian documentary filmmaker Benoit Pilon's debut fiction drama *The Necessities of Life*, Reuters reports. Takita's drama was about an out-of-work cellist who leaves Tokyo to become an undertaker.

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	- - 4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News		Broadcast News							
	- 371 5 KXLY	News	News	Republican Convention	Wife Swap	Supernanny			Entertainment		
	245 306 6 CBRT	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque Sophie (HDTV)	CBC News: the fifth estate	CBC News: The National			The Hour		
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	246 - 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Hell's Kitchen	Secret Life of American Teen		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Your City		
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	- - 10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming					Local Programming				
	- 372 12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	Republican Convention	Greatest American Dog	Criminal Minds "In Heat"			Paid Program		
	- 374 14 KSPS	(6) Republican National Convention (HDTV) (Live)			Synchronized Swimming	Sixties-Years That Shaped a Generation					
	502 390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Anatomy of an Earthquake	CBC News: The National	CBC News: The National			Earthquake		
	- 370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Raymond	Republican Convention	America's Got Talent				Jeopardy!		
	- 373 22 KAYU	'70s Show	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men Two/Half Men	Bones "Yanks in the U.K." (N)				News (N)		
	297 652 37 WPXI	America's Next Top Model (N)	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men Friends	Sex and-City Will & Grace			Frasier		
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	508 502 31 CNN2	Glenn Beck	Nancy Grace	Showbiz Tonight		Glenn Beck			Nancy Grace		
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	552 543 20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj		
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	- - 18 CHTV	'70s Show	El News	Janice Dickinson Modeling	Greatest American Dog	True Hollywood Story			News (N)		
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	602 568 23 W	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Friends	Grocery Bag What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)			Gok's Fashion		
	521 560 24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Lottery Changed My Life	Jon & Kate Plus 8	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate		Lottery Change		
	603 561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Challenge	Iron Chef America		Italian Escape		
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	617 522 32 SHOW	Wife Swap		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County (HDTV)	The Riches (N)		
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	- 633 34 ENC2	Anything-Love	(7:20) Lonely Knights ★★ (1988, Drama)		Selena ★★ (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez, Jon Seda.				Purple Rain		
	520 505 35 DISC	Sport Science		Mayday	Daily Planet	MythBusters			Dirty Jobs		
	620 523 36 BRAVO	Mac Men "The Wheel"		Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order			Mad Men		
	294 650 40 WPCH	(6) The 6th Day (2000, Science Fiction)		Seinfeld	Friends	Friends	The 6th Day ★★ (2000, Science Fiction)				
	626 547 41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons South Park	Lewis Black			
	- 539 42 TCM	(6) The Last Hurrah (1958)		(8:15) The Candidate ★★ (1972, Comedy-Drama)			(10:15) The Best Man ★★ (1964, Drama)				
	628 584 43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed	UFC 88 Countdown (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.			Trek: Voyager		
	522 516 45 HIST	The Real Treasure Island		NCIS "Escaped"	Cities of the Underworld	The Real Treasure Island			NCIS		
	627 528 46 SPACE	Smallville "Apocalypse"		Supernatural	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)	Star Trek: Voyager			Star Trek: Ent.		
	- - 47 AMC	(6) The Enforcer (1976)		The Enforcer ★★ (1976, Crime Drama) Clint Eastwood.		Mad Men "Maidenform"			On-Waterfront		
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	269 350 93 APTN	First Talk	News	Circle of Champions	Shining Mountains		Northern Exposure		Wolf Lake		
	- - 94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	The Land Daughters-Law	Van. Nights Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino			Hola Que Tal		
	571 581 100 MMM	Listed		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five	Brooke Knows Revival		Party of Five		
	570 580 101 MM	PunchMUCH		Legally Blonde	The Shift	Punk'd	Legally Blonde				
	581 566 102 MTV	Step, Repeat	Run's House	Run's House Run's House	MTV Live After	From G's to Gents		Run's House			



The Riches

On the road again? Can he get back to you? The second season of this acclaimed drama series about a family of Irish Travellers masquerading as normal folks begins with Wayne (Eddie Izzard) ready to abandon the scam and hit the bricks once more. In fact, he's already sent his family off while he stays behind in Eden Falls to clean up the mess. But the straight life has grown on him, and he's having second thoughts. Minnie Driver also stars. 11 PM on SHOW



Gibson denies relationship with singer
Actor Mel Gibson has quashed speculation surrounding his love life following reports he has become close to Russian singer Oksana. She is reportedly just a colleague. **THE DAILY MAIL**

Celebrity Buzz

LeAnn Rimes and husband ready for baby

RELATIONSHIPS With their anniversary fast approaching, LeAnn Rimes and Dean Sheremet knew just how to scratch their "seven-year itch": with a party — and soon, perhaps, a baby, People.com reports.

"We're ready, definitely," says Rimes, adding that they've gotten some friendly nudging from their pal and new dad Keith Urban.

Says Rimes: "He's encouraging us to start gettin' on it!"

The country star and her husband invited 30 of their closest friends to celebrate their upcoming seventh wedding anniversary — and Rimes' 26th birthday on Aug. 28 — at the Calistoga

Ranch in California's Napa Valley.

"We wanted to remember how blessed we are, and how excited we still are about each other," says Rimes, who was just 19 when she wed Sheremet, now 27, on Feb. 23, 2002. (They decided to celebrate early to take advantage of the warm weather and Rimes's birthday.)

The three-day festivities culminated with a seven-course dinner and an evening of dancing on Saturday night.

"My ankles and my feet hurt because I was jumping around on the dance floor so much!" she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Piven's 'antics' cost him

CAREER Entourage star Jeremy Piven has been forced to deny his "diva" antics cost him the job of hosting a forthcoming fashion event in New York, imbd.com reports.

The actor hosted Fashion Rocks in 2007 but this year he has been replaced by Rescue Me star Denis Leary, amid rumours that Piven's outlandish demands infuriated staff at last year's event.



Newton refuses film kiss due to illness

MOVIE Thandie Newton refused to film her sex scene with Gerard Butler in RocknRolla because he was ill, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress, who plays accountant Stella in Guy Ritchie's new movie, insisted the scene didn't involve her kissing him after she realized how sick Butler was.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Thiessen moves on after 90210

PEOPLE Former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress Tiffani Thiessen has no intention of joining her old castmates on the set of the new spin-off show — insisting she has moved on, imbd.com reports. The star played Valerie Malone in the hit U.S. teen series alongside Shannen Doherty.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pregnancy cravings for Rebecca Romijn

HEALTH Forget pickles and ice cream. Rebecca Romijn has her own unusual pregnancy cravings, People.com reports. "Lemonade always has to be in our fridge," said husband Jerry O'Connell.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



No rush for Justin

MARRIAGE Justin Timberlake is in no rush to wed girlfriend Jessica Biel, according to his former 'N Sync bandmate Joey Fatone, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer has been romancing the actress since early last year, when she joined him at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

But according to Fatone, Timberlake isn't planning to wed Biel in the near future, despite taking their relationship much more seriously than his former flames.



"I think he finally met somebody that he wants to spend the rest of his life with," Fatone says. "You never know (about an engagement), but I don't know if it's the appropriate time right now. You know what, I think he is just playing it by ear. If it ain't broke don't fix it."

Biel herself appears to be in no rush to walk down the aisle. Adding to Us Weekly in a recent interview, she says: "The actual idea of signing those papers and doing all this stuff... I've never been someone who's like, 'I have to, have to, have to have it.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Justin Timberlake isn't in a rush to wed his girlfriend **Jessica Biel**.

Duly noted. So I've been watching my mailbox for an invitation lately in vain. I'm not going to be fooled by JT again, after those years with **Cameron Diaz** came to naught. It's fairly clear that his people want you to believe he's not the marryin' kind, he's too busy bringin' sexy back, whatever that means. Kind of a **Frank Sinatra** but with more hair and less Nelson Riddle Orchestra.

What really interests me about this story is that **Joey Fatone** is the messenger. What's Joey really thinking as he relates this news? Is he happy the press still talks to him? Is he thinking this is a role he has to accept in life, being the 'N Sync band guy who people ask about Timberlake? Is this all because his name spells out "fat one"?

Fatone says "...if it ain't broke don't fix it" about JT's relationship with Biel, but he should know that something is broken, and it's his career. He should be asking his people when he's going to be the guy they're talking about in connection with some impossibly hot starlet.

He's got to stop taking those calls that say, "Joey, we need you to talk to a reporter to deny that Timberlake is cheating."

If fame is the desirable mate to be wooed, Joey Fatone is in danger of becoming the perennial nice guy who never gets any.

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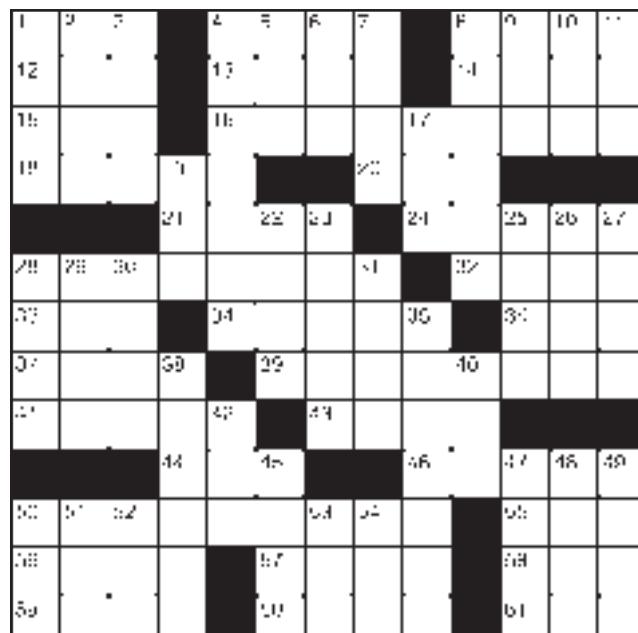
Winehouse turns to Buddhism

Amy Winehouse, reportedly inspired by fellow singer Tina Turner, has begun to seek solace in the religion Buddhism. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



entertainment 19

Take Five



Crossword down

1 United nations
2 Sweet-heart
3 Low — diet
4 Gives
5 Tulsa sch.
6 Car starter (Abbr.)
7 Come in last
8 Sweeney Todd, e.g.
9 Exist
10 Whopper
11 Fellow
17 Couric's employer
19 B&B
22 Cheery sounds?
23 For all to hear
25 Rip
26 Supersoft mineral
27 Upright (Pref.)
28 TV show set in Korea
29 "Simpsons" bus driver
30 Mideast gulf
31 Gambling game
35 Arachnophobe's worry
38 Where to find Sarajevo
40 Inseparable
42 In medias —
45 Wherefores' mates
47 Small amounts
48 Sty cry
49 Picture of health?
50 Crazy
51 — shoestring
52 Peculiar
53 Chit
54 Gist

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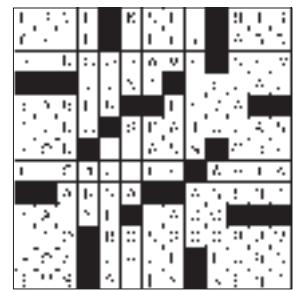
Crossword across

1 Telly watcher's choice
4 Seethe
8 Soother
12 Meadow
13 Therefore
14 Sills solo
15 Rowboat need
16 UV protection
18 Measure for Noah
20 "Chicago" lyricist
21 Mrs. Nick Charles

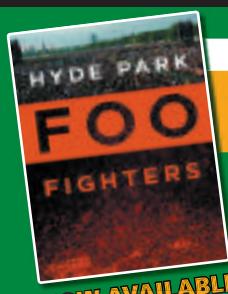
24 Squabble
28 Michael Jackson move
32 Raise up
33 \$ dispenser
34 Footwear
36 Model Carol
37 Impale
39 Screened-in veranda
41 Esteem
43 Slay
44 Stitch

46 Rehab goings-on
50 Still brew
55 Atmosphere
56 "The King —"
57 Majesty predece
58 "CSI" evidence
59 Arp's style
60 Long sandwiches
61 Firmament

previous day's answer



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This day in history

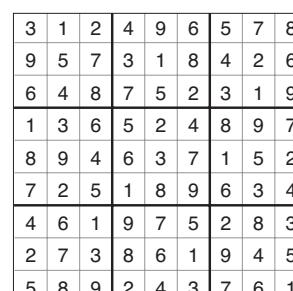
SEPT. 3, 1492: Christopher Columbus sets sail from Palos de la Frontera, Spain.
SEPT. 3, 1678: Robert LaSalle builds the Le Griffon, the first known ship built in America.
SEPT. 3, 1783: Mount Asama erupts in Japan, killing 35,000 people.
SEPT. 3, 1934: Adolf Hitler becomes the supreme leader of Germany by joining the offices of president and chancellor into Führer.
SEPT. 3, 1949: National Basketball Association is founded in the United States.
SEPT. 3, 1958: The Billboard Hot 100 is founded.
SEPT. 3, 1960: Niger gains independence from France.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer



SUDOKU SOLVE TIME
IN MINUTES:

Under 13 Genius
13-17 Scholar

17-21 Smart
21-25 Not bad
25+ Keep practising
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Calgary weather

Afternoon



Rain.
11°

Tonight



Clear.
Low 5°

Thursday



Partly
cloudy.
12° / 2°

Friday



Mainly sunny.
15° / 4°

Saturday



Variable.
14° / 1°

Temperature
Normals

High: 20.4°

Low: 5.9°

Records

High: 31.2°/2003

Low: -2.2°/1929

Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.
Moonrise: 11:45 a.m.
Moonset: 9:08 p.m.

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AVATAR VENUS

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

An upbeat chat will liven up a meal. Move quickly to calm an offended person. Keep a tight grip on your spending.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Expect to work hard behind the scenes. A dynamic woman engages in high stakes manipulation. A good-for-nothing guy will make you nutty.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

Get serious about having fun. A radical person drops by. Leap over tall obstacles when the chips are down.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

Beautiful advances are made by a humble person. Hold yourself aloof in upsetting situations. An unfair comment will be explained and forgiven.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 21

Someone is stronger than you feel. An optimistic person will say impulsive things. Your overindulgence will disturb others.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

An unruly group welcomes your interference. You want to romp with someone but plans must be pursued. A special occasion causes excitement.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

Tight spots will be easier to slip out of now. Improve your understanding of relationship woes. You are tired of being stuck in a rut.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Your love power is turned back on. Buy yourself some luxuries. A tall man tends to be too intense.

PISCES

FEB 19-MAR 20

A friend is determined to have his own way. Debts may cause minor embarrassment. Don't be wishy-washy about taking action.



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